

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, CI

SUBJ:HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

1. AT INVITATION OF CHILEAN OBSERVER DEL, USREP HOFFMAN AND US DEL MEMBER MET WITH THEM AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 5 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CHILEAN HUMAN RITHTS ITEM IN HRC. THOSE TAKING PART ON CHILEAN SIDE WERE AMBASSADOR SERGIO DIEZ, HIS TWO ALTERNATES, MR. JAIME, LAGOS, FIRST SECRETARY IN THE GENEVA MISSION. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HRC SESSION AT WHICH THE ORDER OF ITEMS WAS DECIDED. SINCE CHILEAN ITEM PLACED WELL DOWN THE LIST, CHILEANS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ADEQUATE TIME WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO CANVASS VIEWS OF HRC MEMBERS FROM WEO AND LA GROUPS.

2. AMBASSADOR DIEZ EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING TO DISCUSS WITH US VIEWS OF CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ON HRC DEBATE AND THEIR PREFERENCES FOR HRC ACTION. HE SAID THAT ULTIMATE AIM WAS TO SECURE AND END TO THE BUILD-UP OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON CHILE WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN

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TO SERVE AS PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENTS FOR THE USSR. THE

CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER THAT THE HRC TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE OAS WAS SEIZED OF THE CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION AND, IN VIEW OF THE REPORT ALREADY ISSUED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR), DECIDE TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THE OAS EFFORT RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE A SEPARATE STUDY. IN RESPONSE TO OUR OBSERVATION THAT THE NEGATIVE CHILEAN REACTION TO THE IACHR REPORT WOULD SEEM TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN APPROACH IN THE HRC, AMBASSADOR DIEZ RESPONDED THAT ACTION ON THE IACHR REPORT HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED BY THE OAS ASSEMBLY. THE SITUATION SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BEING SUB JUDICE IN THE OAS. THE IACHR REPORT, TOGETHER WITH THE CHILEAN REPLY, WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY LATER IN THE YEAR. BY THAT TIME THE SITUATION IN CHILE WILL HAVE CHANGED FORM THAT UNDERLYING THE IACHR REPORT. AMBASSADOR DIEZ REDICULED METHODS FOLLOWED BY THE IACHR IN DRAWING UP ITS REPORT SINCE MUCH OF ITS SUBSTANCE WAS BASED ON UNCRITICAL INTERVIEWS OF DETAINEES WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO PAINT AN UNFAVORABLE PICTURE OF THE CONDITIONS SURROUNDING THEIR DETENTION.

3. WE ASKED AMBASSADOR DIEZ WHETHER HE HAD LEARNED OF OTHER POSSIBLE INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT BE PURSUED WHEN THE CHILEAN ITEM CAME UP FOR DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH THE UK DELEGATION AND WAS FULLY INFORMED ON THE APPROACH FAVORED BY THEM (AS REPORTED IN USUN 164). HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT RULE OUT AN APPROACH SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE UK. HE STRESSED THAT THE COMPOSITION OF AN HRC STUDY GROUP WOULD BE CRUCIAL TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT. HE SAID THAT THE ULTIMATE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WOULD DEPEND UPON HIS FURTHER CONVERSATIONS AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AT A TIME CLOSER TO THE HRC'S DISCUSSION OF THE CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS ITEM.

4. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY ABOUT THE ATTITUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OTHER LA'S ON THE HRC, AMBASSADOR DIEZ EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ALL LA'S (PANAMA, PERU, ECUADOR, COASTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND NICARAGUA) COULD BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT REFERRAL OF THE MATTER TO THE OAS. HE SEEMED TO BE ESPECIALLY CONFIDENT OF THE POSITION OF ECUADOR AND REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR BENITEZ WOULD BE COMING TO GENEVA TO REPRESENT ECUADOR IN THE HRC.

5. WE COLSED THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING TO
AMBASSADOR DIEZ OUR APPRECIATION FOR HAVING HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS. WE
TOLD HIM OF OUR DESIRE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIS
DELEGATION, THAT WE WOULD REPORT HIS VIES TO OUR
GOVERNMENT AND THAT WE EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE TO SAY
TO HIM LATER ON.

DALE

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